

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed on October 21, 2003 has been received and its contents carefully noted.

In this Amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 10-20, and have added claims 21-29. The specification has also been amended to provide antecedent basis for the recitation within claim 21. Support for this amendment can be found from the attached dictionary definition of a powder. Claims 1, 9 and 21 are the independent claims. Claims 1-9 and 21-29 are pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Initially, it is noted that neither the Examiner nor the Office have yet acknowledged that the Petition filed with Applicants' response to the Restriction Requirement has been forwarded to the Commissioner for review of the Examiner's requirement. Acknowledgement of such action is again requested.

The Examiner's Action has rejected claims 1-9 as being obvious over *Abiko* (JP 10208301A) in view of *Kobayashi* (USP 6,601,289). It is submitted that these claims are patentably distinguishable over the cited references for at least the following reasons.

Applicants' independent claim 1 is directed to a first and a second stacked disk, and a powder disposed between the disks. The powder facilitates removal of the first disk from the second disk, and protects the first disk and the second disk when the second disk is stacked upon the first disk.

As revealed by Applicants' specification, prior to Applicants' claimed invention, it was conventional to transport stacked disks using a piece of paper between adjacent

disks. The paper would prevent the surface of one disk from scratching the surface of an adjacent disk, and would facilitate separation of the disks from the stack. However, the use of such paper is problematic to the end user. For example, some of the paper would invariably end up in undesired locations, such as being caught in the workings of an expensive piece of manufacturing equipment causing possible equipment damage and loss of thru-put, or as debris on the floor (see page 3, line 3 through page 4, line 7). Applicants' claimed invention overcomes these and other problems by providing a powder between the adjacent disks. In particular, the claimed powder serves as a cushion between the disks, so that the disks will not damage one another. Moreover, the powder may absorb impacts to the stack caused by improper handling, thus protecting the disks from breakage. Further, the use of the powder will prevent close forces of attraction such as polarization and coulombic forces from holding the disks together, thus facilitating the separation of the disks from the stack of disks (see page 9, lines 17-22). Neither Applicant's claimed invention, nor the problems sought to be solved by Applicants' claimed invention, nor the advantages associated with Applicants' claimed invention, are disclosed or suggested by the cited references.

Abiko discloses an information recording medium that includes a first substrate adhered to a second substrate. In order that the recording medium can be used in dark places, a luminous material is added to the adhesive that bonds the first substrate to the second substrate. The reference discloses that the luminous material is an inorganic fluorescent pigment that is disposed in the adhesive.

The Examiner's Action apparently is taking the position that the luminous material added to the adhesive is a powder, as recited in claim 1. However, it is initially

noted that a powder, by definition, is loose. Thus, as soon as a powder is added to the adhesive, it no longer has the required structural characteristics of a powder, in that it is no longer loose. Thus, this luminous material, as it is disposed between the first substrate and the second substrate, is not a powder, as recited in claim 1.

Moreover, and as acknowledged by the Examiner's Action, *Abiko* does not disclose or suggest that the luminous material facilitates removal of the first substrate from the second substrate, as recited by claim 1. In fact, this reference specifically teaches away from this claimed feature, since the luminous material is added to an adhesive, so that the resulting mixture would prevent the removal of the first substrate from the second substrate. This is completely opposite to the goal that is achieved using Applicants' claimed invention.

The Examiner's Action relies on the teachings of *Kobayashi* to overcome the deficiencies of *Abiko*.

Kobayashi teaches a ceramic board 9 that is inserted between pancakes 15, 15' for preventing the pancakes from sticking to each other. Ceramic board 9 is disclosed as being comprised of heat resistant fibers or powder that does not disappear during a heat treatment, and an organic binder that disappears during the heat treatment.

The Examiner's Action states that it would have been obvious to provide the product of *Abiko* with the powder between two disks in view of *Kobayashi*, in order to prevent the disks from sticking to each other. However, as previously noted, the entire point of the "powder" of *Abiko* is to provide a luminous material so that the recording medium can be used in dark places. Thus, why would one skilled in the art have replaced the luminous "powder" of *Abiko* with the non-luminous "powder" of *Kobayashi*,

when such replacement would destroy the functionality of the desired product? Of course, one skilled in the art would have had no such motivation to do so.

Moreover, and as also previously noted, the luminous powder of *Abiko* is disposed within an adhesive, so that the first substrate is bonded to the second substrate to form an information recording medium. The Examiner's Action asserts that the motivation for replacing the powder of *Abiko* with the powder of *Kobayashi* would be to prevent the disks (first and second substrates) from sticking to each other. However, if the first and second substrates were prevented from sticking to each other, the information recording medium would fall apart, rendering it non-functional. Thus, *Abiko* specifically teaches away from the modification proposed by the Examiner's Action.

Therefore, one can logically conclude that it is only in light of Applicants' own application that the desirability of the proposed combination becomes apparent.

However, it is manifestly improper to engage in piecemeal reconstruction of the prior art where only the Applicants' specification suggests any reasons for combining such features. Such hindsight reconstruction of references violates the intent and spirit of 35 U.S.C. §103.

Additionally, and in contrast to the assertion presented by the Examiner's Action, *Kobayashi* does not disclose or suggest a powder between first and second disks. Instead, this reference only teaches placing a ceramic board, which is made using a powder, between the pancakes. Although a powder may be used during the manufacturing stage of the ceramic board, the powder ceases to exist once the board is formed. As previously discussed, a powder, by definition, is loose. Thus, as soon as the powder is heated to remove the binder to form the ceramic board, the ceramic

board no longer has the required structural characteristics of a powder. In an analogous manner, metallic powders are often used to form finished metal products, in a technique known as powdered metallurgy. In this process, the powder is shaped and processed to make the finished metal product. Although the finished metal product is made using a powder, it can hardly be asserted that the finished metal product is a powder. Similarly, it can hardly be asserted that the ceramic board of Kobayashi is a powder, simply because it is made using a powder.

The Action further appears to assert that claim 1 includes recitations that are a statement of intended use. However, it is noted that there are no statements of intended use in claim 1. Instead, each recitation within claim 1 is directed to defining the structural characteristics of the claimed features.

As such, it is submitted that the Examiner's Action has failed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness against independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-8.

Moreover, it is submitted that claims 2-8 are further patentably distinguishable over the cited references for the following additional reasons.

With respect to claim 3, the Examiner's Action has stated that *Abiko* discloses a plurality of disks that are spaced apart, and a powder disposed between the disks. However, claim 3 does not recite this feature. Instead, claim 3 recites that the powder spaces the first disk from the second disk. In contrast, while the first substrate of the *Abiko* arrangement is spaced apart from the second substrate, it is not the luminous material that causes the first substrate to be spaced apart from the second substrate. Instead, it is the adhesive material that spaces the first substrate apart from the second

substrate. Thus, the Examiner's Action has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness against this claim.

Further, in rejecting claims 2 and 4-8, the Action acknowledges that the cited references do not teach the features of these claims, and thus relies on the holdings from certain case law for the proposition that it is within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice.

However, and as previously argued in Applicants' earlier Amendment, the Federal Circuit has specifically stated that cases that state such *per se* rules should not be applied in rejecting the claims of a patent application. It is respectfully submitted that the position taken by the Examiner's Action, and its reliance on court decisions in an apparent effort to avoid performing a complete search and to avoid explaining **why** an ordinarily skilled person would have had an incentive to modify the prior art so as to achieve the present invention, run contrary to the above-quoted guidelines of the CAFC. Should the Examiner continue to reject these claims, the Examiner is hereby requested to present a valid combination of references that teach these claimed features.

Moreover, claims 4, 5, 6 and 7 specifically define features of the powder. The Examiner states that it would have been obvious to provide the product of *Abiko* with the powder recited in claims 4, 5, 6 and 7, as a matter of obvious design choice. However, unless the powders recited in claims 4, 5, 6 and 7 are a luminous material (and they are not believed to be), then one skilled in the art certainly would NOT have substituted the powder recited in claims 4, 5, 6 and 7 for the luminous material of *Abiko*,

since *Abiko* discloses a luminous material is required to allow the recording medium to be used in the dark. As such, it is requested that these claims be allowed, and that this rejection be withdrawn.

Moreover, Applicants' claim 9 is submitted to be patentably distinguishable over the cited references for at least the following reasons. Claim 9 recites a combination that includes a plurality of disks including a first disk and a second disk stacked upon the first disk. The combination also includes a powder disposed between the first disk and the second disk. Claim 9 also recites that the first disk is spaced apart from the second disk by only the powder.

In contrast, and as noted above with respect to claim 1, the cited references do not disclose or suggest a powder disposed between the disks, as recited in claim 9. Moreover, and as likewise argued above with respect to claim 1, the cited references provide no motivation for replacing the luminous powder of *Abiko* with the non-luminous powder of *Kobayashi*, since such replacement would destroy the functionality of the *Abiko* product.

Further, claim 9 recites that the first disk is spaced apart from the second disk by only a powder. The Examiner's Action acknowledges that *Abiko* does not teach this feature, but relies on the teachings of *Kobayashi* to overcome this admitted deficiency. Apparently, it is the Examiner's position that the adhesive that is used to adhere the first and second substrates of the *Abiko* product together, can be eliminated in view of the teachings of *Kobayashi*. However, *Abiko* specifically teaches that the adhesive between the disks is required, to hold the first and second substrates together. If the adhesive was eliminated, as proposed by the combination presented by the Examiner's

Action, then the first and second substrates would not stick together, and the information recording medium would fall apart, rendering it non-functional. Thus, *Abiko* specifically teaches away from the modification proposed by the Examiner's Action.

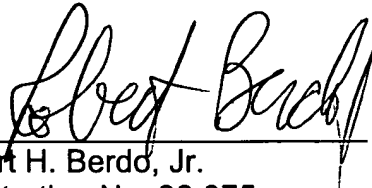
Moreover, and in contrast to the assertion presented by the Examiner's Action, *Kobayashi* does not disclose or suggest a powder between first and second disks, much less spacing a first disk away from a second disk using only a powder, as recited in claim 9. Instead, this reference only teaches placing a ceramic board, which is made using a powder, between the pancakes. As previously noted, the mere fact that the ceramic board was made from a powder does not infer upon the resulting ceramic board the definition of a powder. It is thus requested that this claim be allowed, and it is further requested that these rejections be withdrawn.

Applicants have also added claims 21-29, which recite that a plurality of fine, loose particles constituting a powder are disposed between the first disk and the second disk. Support for these claims comes from the inherent definition of a powder (see attached dictionary definition). In contrast, none of the cited references disclose or suggest the features of these claims. It is likewise requested that these claims be allowed.

It is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Such action, and the passing of this case to issue are requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

Robert H. Berdo, Jr.
Registration No. 38,075
RABIN & BERDO, PC
Customer No. 23995
Telephone: 202-371-8976
Facsimile: 202-408-0924

RHB:crh

AMENDMENT

09/840,077

in great need. WANT emphasizes privations, esp. lack of food and clothing. Families were suffering from want. 3. meagerness. —Ant. 1. riches, wealth, plenty.

poverty lev/əl. See **poverty line**. [1975-80] —**poverty-lev/əl**, adj.

poverty line, a minimum income level used as an official standard for determining the proportion of a population living in poverty.

poverty-stricken (pov/or tē strik/ən), adj. suffering from poverty; extremely poor: *poverty-stricken refugees*. [1795-1805]

po-vi-dōn-ē-dīn (pō/vi dōn i/ə dīn/, -dīn), n. Pharm. a complex of iodine and polyvinylpyrrolidone that has broad-spectrum antimicrobial activity: used as an antiseptic. [PO(VI)VINYL(PYRROLIDONE)]

pow¹ (pou), *interj.* 1. used to express or indicate a heavy blow or a loud, explosive noise. —n. 2. a heavy blow or a loud, explosive noise. 3. the power of exciting. —adj. 4. exciting and appealing. [1880-85, Amer.]

pow² (pō, pou), n. Scot. and North Eng. the head; poll. [1715-25; var. of **POLL¹**]

POW, prisoner of war. Also, **P.O.W.**

pow-ay (pou/ā), n. a city in SW California. 32,263.

pow-der (pou/dər), n. 1. any solid substance reduced to a state of fine, loose particles by crushing, grinding, disintegration, etc. 2. a preparation in this form, as gunpowder or face powder. 3. Also, **powder snow**. Skiing. loose, usually fresh snow that is not granular, wet, or packed. —u.t. 4. to reduce to powder; pulverize. 5. to sprinkle or cover with powder. *She powdered the cookies with confectioners' sugar.* 6. to apply powder to (the face, skin, etc.) as a cosmetic. 7. to sprinkle or strew as if with powder. *A light snowfall powdered the landscape.* 8. to ornament in this fashion, as with small objects scattered over a surface: *a dress lightly powdered with sequins*. —u.i. 9. to use powder as a cosmetic. 10. to become pulverized. [1250-1300; (n.) ME *poudre* < OF < L *pulver-* (s. of *pulvis*) dust, powder; akin to **POLLEN**; (v.) ME *poudren* < OF *poudrer*, deriv. of *poudre*] —**pow-der-er**, n.

pow-der² (pou/dər), v.i. 1. Brit. Dial. to rush. —n. 2. Brit. Dial. a sudden, frantic, or impulsive rush. 3. *take a powder*. Slang. to leave in a hurry; depart without taking leave, as to avoid something unpleasant: *He took a powder and left his mother to worry about his gambling debts.* Also, *take a runout powder*. [1625-35; orig. uncert.]

pow-der blue¹, a pale blue diluted with gray. [1700-10] —**pow-der-blue¹**, adj.

pow-der boy¹. See **powder monkey** (def. 1). [1795-1805]

pow-der burn¹, a skin burn caused by exploding gunpowder. [1840-50, Amer.]

pow-der charge¹, propellant (def. 2). [1930-35]

pow-der chest¹, a small wooden box containing a charge of powder, old nails, scrap iron, etc., formerly secured over the side of a ship and exploded on the attempt of an enemy to board.

pow-der down¹, modified down feathers that continually crumble at the tips, producing a fine powder that forms a bloom on the plumage of certain birds, as pigeons and herons.

pow-dered milk¹. See **dry milk**. [1885-90]

pow-dered sug/ar, a sugar produced by pulverizing granulated sugar, esp. a coarser variety used for fruits or cold beverages. Symbol: XX Cf. **confectioners' sugar**. [1615-25]

pow-der flag¹, Naut. See **red flag** (def. 4). [1870-75]

pow-der flask¹, a small flask of gunpowder formerly carried by soldiers and hunters. [1745-55]

pow-der horn¹, a powder flask made from the horn of a cow or ox. [1525-35]

pow-der keg¹, 1. a small, metal, barrellike container for gunpowder or blasting powder. 2. a potentially dangerous situation, esp. one involving violent repercussions. [1850-55]

pow-der magazine¹, a compartment for the storage of ammunition and explosives. [1755-65]

pow-der-man (pou/dər man/, -mən), n., pl. **-men** (-mən/, -mən). 1. a person in charge of explosives, esp. in a demolition crew. 2. Slang. a safe-cracker who uses explosives to open safes. [1660-70; **POWDER¹** + **MAN¹**]

pow-der met/allurgy, the art or science of manufacturing useful articles by compacting metal and other powders in a die, followed by sintering. [1930-35]

pow-der meth/od, *Crystall.* a method of x-ray determination of crystal structure using a powdered sample. Cf. **x-ray crystallography**.

pow-der mill¹, a mill in which gunpowder is made. [1640-50]

pow-der mon/key, 1. (formerly) a boy employed on warships to carry gunpowder from the magazine to the guns. 2. powderman (def. 1). [1675-85]

pow-der pa/per, Pharm. charts (def. 2). [1880-85]

pow-der puff¹, a soft, feathery ball or pad, as of cotton or down, for applying powder to the skin. [1695-1705]

pow-der-puff (pou/dər puf/), adj. Informal. 1. limited to participation by women or girls: *She plays on the powder-puff touch football team.* 2. inconsequential;

trifling, lightweight: *a powder-puff company with little financing and a weak sales effort*. [1935-40]

pow-der room¹, 1. a room containing a toilet and washing facilities for women; lavatory. 2. such a room provided for the use of female guests, as in a restaurant or nightclub. [1905-10]

pow-der snow¹, Skiing. powder¹ (def. 3). [1925-30]

pow-der-y (pou/də rē), adj. 1. consisting of or resembling powder: *powdery sand; powdery clouds*. 2. easily reduced to powder: *powdery plaster*. 3. sprinkled or covered with or as with powder: *flowers powdery with pollen*. [1400-50; late ME *poudry*. See **POWDER¹**, -y¹]

pow-der-y mil/dew, 1. any of various parasitic fungi of the ascomycete order Erysiphales, which produce a powderlike film of mycelium on the surface of host plants. 2. *Plant Pathol.* a disease caused by powdery mildew, characterized by yellowing and death of the foliage and a white mealy growth of fungus on the surface of above-ground parts. [1885-90, Amer.]

Powell (pou/əl for 1, 4, 5; pō/əl, pou-/ for 2, 3), n. 1. Adam Clayton, Jr., 1908-72, U.S. clergyman, politician, and civil rights leader: congressman 1945-67, 1969-71. 2. Anthony, born 1905, English author. 3. Cecil Frank, 1903-69, English physicist: Nobel prize 1950. 4. John Wesley, 1734-1902, U.S. geologist and ethnologist. 5. Lewis Franklin, Jr., born 1907, U.S. jurist: associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court 1972-87.

pow-er (pou/ər), n. 1. ability to do or act; capability of doing or accomplishing something. 2. political or national strength: *the balance of power in Europe*. 3. great or marked ability to do or act; strength; might; force. 4. the possession of control or command over others; authority: *ascendancy; power over men's minds*. 5. political ascendancy or control in the government of a country, state, etc.: *They attained power by overthrowing the legal government*. 6. legal ability, capacity, or authority: *the power of attorney*. 7. delegated authority; authority granted to a person or persons in a particular office or capacity: *the powers of the president*. 8. a document or written statement conferring legal authority. 9. a person or thing that possesses or exercises authority or influence. 10. a state or nation having international authority or influence: *The great powers held an international conference*. 11. a military or naval force: *The Spanish Armada was a mighty power*. 12. Often, **powers**, a deity; divinity: *the heavenly powers*. 13. **powers**, Theol. an order of angels. Cf. **angel** (def. 1). 14. Dial. a large number or amount: *There's a power of good eatin' at the church social*. 15. Physics. a. work done or energy transferred per unit of time. Symbol: P b. the time rate of doing work. 16. mechanical energy as distinguished from hand labor: *a loom driven by power*. 17. a particular form of mechanical or physical energy: *hydroelectric power*. 18. energy, force, or momentum: *The door slammed shut, seemingly under its own power*. 19. Math. a. the product obtained by multiplying a quantity by itself one or more times: *The third power of 2 is 8*. b. (of a number x) a number whose logarithm is a times the logarithm of x (and is called the *ath power of x*). Symbolically, $y = x^a$ is a number that satisfies the equation $\log y = a \log x$. c. the exponent of an expression, as a in x^a . d. See **cardinal number** (def. 2). 20. Optics. a. the magnifying capacity of a microscope, telescope, etc., expressed as the ratio of the diameter of the image to the diameter of the object. Cf. **magnification** (def. 2). b. the reciprocal of the focal length of a lens. 21. **the powers that be**, those in supreme command; the authorities: *The decision is in the hands of the powers that be*. —u.t. 22. to supply with electricity or other means of power: *Atomic energy powers the new submarines*. 23. to give power to; make powerful: *An outstanding quarterback powered the team in its upset victory*. 24. to inspire; spur; sustain: *A strong faith in divine goodness powers his life*. 25. (of a fuel, engine, or any source able to do work) to supply force to operate (a machine): *An electric motor powers this drill*. 26. to drive or push by applying power: *She powered the car expertly up the winding mountain road*. 27. **power down**, Computers. to shut off. 28. **power up**, Computers. to turn on. —adj. 29. operated or driven by a motor or electricity: *a power mower; power tools*. 30. power-assisted: *His new car has power brakes and power windows*. 31. conducting electricity: *a power cable*. 32. Informal. expressing or exerting power; characteristic of those having authority or influence: *to host a power lunch*. [1250-1300; ME *puer(e)*, *poer(e)* < AF *puer*, *poer*, n. use of inf: to be able < VL **potēre* (r. L *posse* to be able, have power). See **ROTTEN¹**]

—Syn. 1. capacity. 3. energy. See **strength**. 4, 5. sway, rule, sovereignty. —Ant. 1. incapacity. 3. weakness.

pow-er am/plifier, Elect. an amplifier for increasing the power of a signal. [1915-20]

pow-er as/sist¹, a procedure for supplementing or replacing the manual effort needed to operate a device or system, often by hydraulic, electrical, or mechanical means. —**pow-er-as-sist-ed**, **pow-er-as-sist-ing**, adj.

pow-er base¹, a source of authority or influence, esp. in politics, founded on support by an organized body of voters, ethnic minority, economic class, etc.: *His election as governor gives him a power base for seeking the presidency*. [1965-70]

pow-er-boat (pou/ər bōt/), n. 1. a boat propelled by mechanical power. 2. motorboat. [1905-10; **POWER** + **BOAT¹**] —**pow-er-boat-ing**, n.

pow-er-boat-er (pou/ər bōt/ər), n. a powerboat owner or operator. [1950-55; **POWERBOAT** + **-ER¹**]

pow-er brake¹, an automotive brake set by pressure from some power source, as a compressed-air reservoir, in proportion to a smaller amount of pressure on the brake pedal. [1895-1900]

pow-er-bro-ker (pou/ər brō/kər), n. a person who wields great political, governmental, or financial power. [1960-65, Amer.; **POWER** + **BROKER**]

pow-er ca/bile, Elect. cable for conducting electric power. [1900-05]

pow-er chain¹, an endless chain for transmitting motion and power between sprockets on shafts with parallel axes. Also called **pitch chain**. Cf. **roller chain**.

pow-er dive¹, Aeron. a dive, esp. a steep dive, by aircraft in which the engine or engines are delivered thrust at or near full power. [1925-30]

pow-er-dive (pou/ər div/), u.t., u.i., -div-ed or -div-ing, Aeron. to cause to perform or to form a power dive. [1935-40]

pow-er drill¹, a drill operated by a motor. [1960-65]

pow-ered (pou/əd), adj. (of a machine, vehicle, etc.) having a specified fuel or prime mover: *a gasoline-powered engine; an engine-powered pump*. [1875-80; **POWER** + **-ED¹**]

pow-er elite¹, a closely knit alliance of military, government, and corporate officials perceived as the center of wealth and political power in the U.S. [1950-55]

pow-er for-ward, Basketball. a forward who is chiefly for aggressive rebounding capability, rather than scoring, and thus a big, physically strong player.

pow-er-ful (pou/ər fəl), adj. 1. having or exerting great power or force. 2. physically strong, as a person: *a large, powerful athlete*. 3. producing great physical effects, as a machine or a blow. 4. potent; efficacious: *a powerful drug*. 5. having great effectiveness, as speech, speaker, description, reason, etc. 6. having great power, authority, or influence; mighty: *a powerful nation*. 7. Chiefly South Midland and Southern U.S. great, in number or amount: *a powerful lot of money*. [1350-1400; ME *powerful*. See **POWER**, -ful¹] —**pow-er-ful-ly**, adv. —**pow-er-ful-ness**, n.

—Syn. 1. forceful, strong. **POWERFUL**, **MIGHTY**, **POTENT** suggest great force or strength. **POWERFUL** suggests capability of exerting great force or overcoming strong resistance: *a powerful machine like a bulldozer*. **MIGHTY**, now chiefly rhetorical, implies uncommon or overwhelming strength of power: *a mighty army*. **POTENT** implies great natural or inherent power: *a potent influence*. 5. influential, convincing, forcible, cogent, effective. —Ant. 1. weak.

pow-er-house (pou/ər haus/), n., pl. **-houses** (-hooz/iz). 1. Elect. a generating station. 2. a person, group, team, or the like, having great energy, strength, or potential for success. [1880-85; **POWER** + **HOUSE**]

pow-er-less (pou/ər lis), adj. 1. unable to produce an effect: *a disease against which modern medicine is virtually powerless*. 2. lacking power to act; helpless: *His legs crumpled, and he was powerless to rise*. [1545-65; **POWER** + **-LESS**] —**pow-er-less-ly**, adv. —**pow-er-less-ness**, n. —Syn. 1. ineffective. 2. feeble, impotent, prostrate, infirm.

pow-er line¹, Elect. a line for conducting electric power. [1890-95]

pow-er load-ing, Aeron. See under **loading** (def. 4). [1915-20]

pow-er-loom (pou/ər lōom/), n. a loom operated by mechanical or electrical power. [1800-10]

pow-er mower¹, a lawn mower that is powered and propelled by an electric motor or gasoline engine (distinguished from hand mower). [1935-40]

pow-er of ap-point-ment, Law. the authority granted by a donor to a donee to select the person, or persons who are to enjoy property rights or income upon the death of the donor or of the donee or after the termination of existing rights or interests. [1930-35]

pow-er of at-tor-ney, Law. a written document given by one person or party to another authorizing the latter to act for the former. [1740-50]

pow-er pack¹, Electronics. a device for converting the voltage from a power line or battery to the various voltages required by the components of an electronic circuit. [1935-40]

pow-er plant¹, 1. a plant, including engines, dynamos, etc., and the building or buildings necessary for the generation of power, as electric or nuclear power. 2. the machinery for supplying power for a particular mechanical process or operation. 3. the engine, motor, or other power source along with related ignition, transmission, etc., components of a vehicle, aircraft, machine, etc. Also **pow-er-plant¹**. [1885-90]

pow-er play¹, 1. Football. an aggressive running play in which numerous offensive players converge and force ahead to block and clear a path for the ball carrier. 2. Ice Hockey. a. a situation in which one team has a temporary numerical advantage because an opposing player or players are in the penalty box, and hence has an opportunity for a concerted, swarming attack on the opponent's goal. b. the offensive strategy or effectiveness of the team having such an advantage. 3. an action, stratagem, or maneuver, as in politics or business, by which power is concentrated or manipulated in order to subdue a rival or gain control of a situation. [1960-65]

pow-er pol/itics, 1. political action characterized by the exercise or pursuit of power as a means of coercion. 2. international diplomacy based on the use or threatened use of military or economic power. [1935-40]

pow-er press¹, a press operated by a mechanical, hydraulic, or pneumatic device. [1835-45]

Pow-ers (pou/ərz), n. Hiram, 1805-73, U.S. sculptor.

pow-er saw¹, a saw driven by a motor. [1955-60]

pow-er-saw (pou/ər sō/), u.t., -sawed, -saw-ing, -saw-ing, to cut with a power saw.

pow-er se-ries, Math. an infinite series in which the terms are coefficients times successive powers of a given variable, or times products of powers of two or more variables. [1890-95]

pow-er set¹, Math. the collection of all subsets of a given set. [1950-55]

pow-er shov-el, any self-propelled shovel for excavating earth, ore, or coal with a dipper that is powered by a diesel engine or electric motor. Cf. **shovel** (def. 2). [1905-10]

pow-er sta-tion, Elect. a generating station. [1900-05]

CONCISE ETYMOLOGY KEY: <, descended or borrowed from; >, whence; b, blend of, blended; c, cognate with; cf., compare; deriv., derivative; equiv., equivalent; imit., imitative; obl., oblique; r., replacing; s., stem; sp., spelling, spelled; resp., respelling, respelled; trans., translation; ? , origin unknown; * , unattested; † , probably earlier than. See the full key inside the front cover.